

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): Membrane filter unit for liquid or gaseous media, with a bundle, or a plurality disposed in any desired manner, of capillary membranes (1) open on at least one face, which are cast into a sealing layer (3) that has hardened to form a solid head piece, in a region close to the end, with regard to the open membrane end (2), whereby the open membrane ends (2) protrude on the outside of the sealing layer (3), wherein the sealing layer (3) is disposed on a spacer (4) that ~~has a layer that~~ is penetrated by the capillary membranes (1) and is impermeable for the casting material that hardens to form the sealing layer (3) and that consists of a perforated plate consisting of an elastomeric material whose openings enclose the capillary membranes essentially without a gap.

Claims 2-16 (Canceled).

Claim 17 (New): Membrane filter unit according to claim 1, wherein the perforated plate is configured with a collar and wherein the perforated plate and the collar form a lost casting mold for the casting material.

Claim 18 (New): Membrane filter unit according to claim 1, wherein the perforated plate is enclosed by a wall which is part of a head piece, wherein the head piece comprises a permeated collection space in fluid communication with the open membrane ends that protrude out of the casting material.

Claim 19 (New): Membrane filter unit according to claim 17, wherein the component that forms the lost casting mold is additionally supplied with a pipe socket that can be used for applying gas to the membrane filter unit.

Claim 20 (New): Membrane filter unit according to claim 18, wherein the component that forms the lost casting mold is additionally supplied with a pipe socket that can be used for applying gas to the membrane filter unit.